

LAUREN E. PURCELL

SHAREHOLDER



AREAS OF PRACTICE

Product Liability
Automobile Liability
Construction Injury Litigation
General Liability
Hospitality & Liquor Liability

CONTACT INFO

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ADMISSIONS

Pennsylvania
2013

U.S. District Court Western District
of Pennsylvania
2013

EDUCATION

University of Pittsburgh School of
Law (J.D., cum laude, 2013)

University of Pittsburgh (B.S., cum
laude, 2005)

HONORS & AWARDS

The Best Lawyers: Ones to
Watch®, Construction Law;
Product Liability Litigation -
Defendants
2021-2025

ASSOCIATIONS & MEMBERSHIPS

Allegheny County Bar Association

Pennsylvania Bar Association

The W. Edward Sell American Inns
of Court

OVERVIEW

Lauren is a shareholder in the Casualty Department. She concentrates her practice in the areas of product liability, premises liability, auto liability, and construction law. Lauren's litigation experience includes assisting in the management of discovery during the course of litigation, as well as drafting and arguing dispositive motions. Lauren participated in Marshall Dennehey's pro bono program where she was responsible for a social security disability appeal case. Further, Lauren has represented corporate entities at the arbitration and magistrate levels.

Lauren earned her Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Pittsburgh in Psychology, Political Science, and Anthropology, *cum laude*. Prior to law school, Lauren was an assistant buyer for Anthropologie. She received her *juris doctor* from the University of Pittsburgh, *cum laude*, in 2013. While in law school, Lauren served as a legal writing teaching assistant and as an editorial board member of the *Journal of Law and Commerce*. Prior to graduating from law school, Lauren served as a judicial intern for the Honorable Maurice B. Cohill, Jr. of the United States District Court for the Western District of Pennsylvania, and also as a legal intern for the legal department of Dick's Sporting Goods, Inc.

Prior to joining the firm, Lauren served as a judicial law clerk with the Pennsylvania Court of Common Pleas of Somerset County.

Lauren is admitted into practice in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and the United States District Court for the Western District of Pennsylvania. Her memberships include the Pennsylvania and Allegheny County Bar Associations, and the W. Edward Sell American Inn of Court.

THOUGHT LEADERSHIP**Commonwealth Court Vacates Verdict, Holding Comparative Negligence Instruction Improper in Dog Attack Case****Pittsburgh****Premises & Retail Liability****October 1, 2025**

When the plaintiff, a volunteer at the dog shelter, arrived at the shelter, a dog on a leash jumped up. The plaintiff moved away and told an employee of the shelter to take the dog away.

Court Grants Summary Judgment to Grocery Store Where Plaintiff Failed to Show Cause of Fall or Notice of Hazard**Pittsburgh****Premises & Retail Liability****October 1, 2025**

The plaintiff alleged that she slipped and fell in the women's restroom of the defendant's grocery store. The plaintiff claimed she slipped on some unknown substance, which caused her to fall and strike the toilet.

Pa. Superior Court Reverses Summary Judgment, Finding Fact Issues on Store's Duty to Anticipate Off-Premises Assault**Pittsburgh****Premises & Retail Liability****October 1, 2025**

The plaintiff was beaten and robbed a block away from the defendant's store. Prior to the incident, the plaintiff and the assailant were both in the store.

Superior Court Affirms Defense Verdict, No Adverse Spoliation Inference Where Lost Video Did Not Capture Incident or Contain Relevant Evidence**Pittsburgh****Premises & Retail Liability****October 1, 2025**

The plaintiff tripped and fell on a floor mat near the beverage area in the defendant's store.

Superior Court Affirms New Trial in Zoo Injury Case Over Omitted Open and Obvious Jury Instruction**Pittsburgh****Premises & Retail Liability****July 1, 2025**

The Superior Court of Pennsylvania affirmed an order granting a new trial, as the jury was not instructed on the open and obvious doctrine and the verdict slip did not include a question on whether the at-issue condition was open and obvious. Case Law Alerts, 3rd Quarter, July 2025 is prepared by Marshall Dennehey to provide information on recent developments of interest to our readers.

PUBLISHED WORKS

"A Post-'Sullivan' World Requires a Strong Expert Report," *The Legal Intelligencer*, April 17, 2025

"Protecting Your Bar From Claims in the Wake of 'Mortimer'," *The Legal Intelligencer*, Liquor Law Supplement, February 15, 2023

"Employers (Still) Not Liable For Serving Alcohol to Intoxicated Employees," *The Legal Intelligencer*, Liquor Law Supplement, February 10, 2022

"Winning the Golden Ticket: Ownership of Terminal-Printed Lottery Tickets," *Defense Digest*, June 2021, Vol. 27, No. 3

"Should Mandatory Liquor Liability Insurance Be in PA's Future?" *The Legal Intelligencer* Liquor Law Supplement, February 25, 2020

Note, A Fashion Flop: The Innovative Design Protection and Privacy Prevention Act, 31 J.L. & COM. 203 (2013)

PRO BONO ACTIVITIES

Marshall Dennehey's Social Security Disability Pro Bono Program

RESULTS

Summary Judgment Secured in a Neighborhood Dispute Alleging Excess Water Runoff

Property Litigation June 10, 2024

We obtained summary judgment in the Westmoreland County Court of Common Pleas in favor of our clients in a dispute over alleged excess water runoff. Our clients, a married couple, were sued by their neighbors for claims related to water runoff due to the installation of gutters and downspouts on a shed near the property line. We effectively argued for summary judgment on the plaintiffs' injunction, trespass, nuisance and negligence claims, demonstrating that the plaintiffs lacked the necessary expert testimony to substantiate their case as required under Pennsylvania law.

Summary Judgment for Wellhead Manufacturer.

Product Liability May 11, 2018

We obtained summary judgment on behalf of a wellhead manufacturer in a product liability matter pending in Western Pennsylvania. The plaintiff drill operator alleged a wellhead was defectively designed, causing oil and gas to escape during operation, which led to a fire at the well site. The plaintiff asserted economic losses in excess of \$1.4 million. We successfully argued that the plaintiff failed to elicit sufficient expert opinion to support the defect claim and also spoliated evidence in discarding the subject wellhead.